

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON KEY NEW MEMBERS OF CABINET

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING ARE SUPPLEMENTARY BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF NEW CABINET MEMBERS IN POSTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO US: FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORT, AND HEALTH AND WELFARE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE APPOINTMENT OF ZENTARO KOSAKA AS FOREIGN MINISTER IS DUE BOTH TO KOSAKA'S SUPPORT OF MIKI DURING EXTENDED LDP LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE AND TO HIS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN PARTY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. KOSAKA WAS A PRINCIPAL FIGURE IN FINANCE MINISTER - AND MIKI RIVAL - MASAYOSHI OHIRA'S LDP FACTION, BUT HAS MOVED AWAY FROM OHIRA AND EARLIER THIS YEAR FORMED HIS OWN STUDY GROUP - THE CHIYODA KAI - WHICH HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT TO MIKI'S CONTINUATION IN OFFICE. HE FORMALLY SEVERED
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HIS TIES WITH OHIRA BY RESIGNING FROM FACTION ON

DAY OF HIS APPOINTMENT AS FONMIN.

THROUGHOUT HIS POLITICAL CAREER, KOSAKA HAS BEEN A FIRM BELIEVER IN IMPORTANCE OF US-JAPAN COOPERATION. DURING HIS 1960-62 TERM AS FOREIGN MINISTER HE IMPRESSED AMERICAN OFFICIALS WITH HIS CONSTRUCTIVE AND REALISTIC APPROACH TO PROBLEMS. HE HAS IN THE PAST BEEN AN ADVOCATE OF INCREASED PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND HAS VISITED THE US ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS.

KOSAKA HAS LONG BEEN AN ADVOCATE OF IMPROVED JAPAN-PRC RELATIONS AND PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN PAVING THE WAY FOR THE 1972 TANAKA VISIT TO THE PRC. HE HAS BEEN AN ADVOCATE OF EARLY CONCLUSION OF PFT WITH CHINA. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THERE IS SOME CHANCE HE MIGHT ATTEMPT TO MOVE JAPAN-CHINA NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD BUT, GIVEN PROBABLE SHORT LIFE OF CABINET AND CURRENT SITUATION IN CHINA, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY MAJOR PROGRESS WILL BE MADE. KOSAKA LAST VISITED CHINA EARLIER THIS YEAR.

KOSAKA'S RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, EXPERIENCE, SOUND APPROACH TO PROBLEMS AND UNTARNISHED IMAGE SHOULD MAKE HIM AN EFFECTIVE, IF NOT AN INNOVATIVE, FOREIGN MINISTER. A MID-LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL COMMENTED TO US THAT CHANGE IN FONMINS WOULD NOT MEAN A CHANGE IN GOJ APPROACH TO MIG-25 PROBLEM.

3. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES. AS NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, BUICHI OISHI WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BILATERAL FISHERIES DISCUSSIONS. OISHI, 67, HAS SERVED IN THE LOWER HOUSE SINCE 1948. HE WAS ORIGINALLY A PHYSICIAN AND PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AT TOHOKU UNIVERSITY, BUT ENTERED POLITICS TO KEEP A DEATHBED PROMISE TO HIS FATHER, ALSO A DIETMAN, TO SUCCEED HIM. ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN PARLIAMENTARY VICE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (1955) AND TRANSPORT (1962) AND DEPUTY SECGEN OF THE LDP (1961), HE WAS RATHER A SLEEPER UNTIL APPOINTED FIRST DIRGEN OF THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY UNDER PM SATO IN 1971. IN THAT POST, FOR WHICH HIS MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE WELL SUITED HIM, HE DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY TAKING AN ACTIVIST ROLE TOWARD ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND "QUALITY OF LIFE" ISSUES. FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE HEAD OF THE AGENCY, HE OFTEN TRAVELLED TO LOCATIONS THREATENED BY POLLUTION AND SUCCEEDED IN DELAYING

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CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECTS DANGEROUS TO THE ENVIRONMENT. HE ALSO CHAMPIONED THE CAUSE OF VICTIMS OF MINAMATA DISEASE, INSISTING UPON GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSIST THEM. FOR SUCH VIGOROUS ACTION, HE CROSSED SWORDS WITH TAKEO FUKUDA WHO, AS FOREIGN MINISTER, FOUGHT WITH OISHI OVER JAPANESE SPONSORSHIP OF SECOND UN CONFERENCE ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (1972).

OISHI IS CONSIDERED AN EXPERT ON AGRICULTURAL POLICY AND HAS TRAVELLED TO THE US AND CHINA ON AGRICULTURAL STUDY

MISSIONS. HIS KNOWLEDGE OF FISHERIES QUESTIONS, HOWEVER, MAY BE SPARSE AND HE IS EXPECTED TO DEFER TO THE BUREAUCRACY ON THESE. HE SPEAKS ALMOST NO ENGLISH.

4. TRANSPORT. AS THE NEW MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, HIROHIDE ISHIDA COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE FORTHCOMING CIVIL AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS, PARTICULARLY IF THEY BECOME DEADLOCKED AT THE WORKING LEVEL. FIRST ELECTED TO LOWER HOUSE FROM AKITA PREFECTURE IN 1946, ISHIDA CAME TO PROMINENCE IN 1956 WHEN HE HELPED ELECT TANZAN ISHIBASHI PRESIDENT OF THE LDP AND WAS REWARDED WITH POST OF CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY. ISHIDA SUBSEQUENTLY SERVED THREE TERMS AS LABOR MINISTER UNDER PRIME MINISTERS KISHI, IKEDA AND SATO, AND IS ONE OF FEW LDP POLITICIANS DEEPLY VERSED IN LABOR MATTERS AND WITH TIES TO ORGANIZED LABOR.

ISHIDA IS REGARDED AS SOMETHING OF A MAVERICK IN THE LDP. AFTER ISHIBASHI'S DEATH IN 1957, HE REMAINED OUTSIDE OF ANY FACTION FOR A DECADE AND WAS WIDELY REGARDED AS PLANNING TO BOLT LDP IF A MODERATE OPPOSITION PARTY WAS ORGANIZED. HE FORMED HIS OWN SMALL FACTION IN THE LDP IN THE LATE 1960'S TO HELP ELECT HIS OLD FRIEND MIKI PARTY PRESIDENT. WHEN MIKI BECAME PRIME MINISTER IN 1974, ISHIDA LED HIS FACTION INTO MIKI FACTION AND WAS APPOINTED ALTERNATE LDP SEC GEN.

SINCE ISHIDA HAS BEEN ONE OF LDP'S PRINCIPAL CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION TO USSR, PRIMARILY AS A BEHIND-THE-SCENES NEGOTIATOR OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT TIES, HE HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT AMERICANS REGARD HIM AS "PRO-SOVIET." ISHIDA IS IN FACT WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE US AND A VOCAL SUPPORTER OF THE MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY.

ISHIDA IS A PHYSICALLY BIG MAN WITH AN INCISIVE MIND, UNUSUALLY SHARP WIT AND GREGARIOUS PERSONALITY. HE ENJOYS COMPANY OF WESTERNERS AND UNDERSTANDS CONSIDERABLE ENGLISH. HE HAS MANY HOBBIES, INCLUDING THE CULTIVATION OF ONE OF

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JAPAN'S MOST FAMOUS ROSE GARDENS. HIS SON-IN-LAW IS A MIDDLE LEVEL OFFICIAL IN THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUREAU OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

5. HEALTH AND WELFARE. IN HIS NEW ROLE AS MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, TAKASHI HAYAKAWA (FUKUDA FACTION) ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR HANDLING THE CURRENT US-JAPAN DISPUTE OVER THE USE OF FUNGICIDES FOR THE PRESERVATION OF CITRUS FRUIT. ALTHOUGH HE SERVED BRIEFLY IN THE PRE-WAR HOME AFFAIRS (INTERIOR) MINISTRY UPON GRADUATION FROM TOKYO UNIVERSITY IN 1941, HAYAKAWA BELONGS TO THE PROFESSIONAL POLITICIAN WING OF THE LDP AND HAS HELD A LOWER HOUSE SEAT FROM WAKAYAMA PREFECTURE CONTINUOUSLY SINCE 1946. HAYAKAWA'S LINKS TO MIKI DATE FROM THE FIRST POST WAR DIET ELECTION IN 1946 WHEN BOTH MEN ENTERED THE DIET AS MEMBERS OF A

PREDECESSOR PARTY TO THE LDP AND HE REMAINED A MEMBER OF MIKI FACTION UNTIL ESTABLISHMENT OF FUKUDA FACTION IN 1972. HAYAKAWA SERVED AS MINISTER OF AUTONOMY (HOME AFFAIRS) AND AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION IN THE IKEDA CABINET, BUT RESIGNED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE STABBING OF THEN AMBASSADOR REISCHAUER BY A DERANGED YOUNG MAN. HE SERVED ALSO AS LABOR MINISTER IN THE 1966 SATO CABINET, BUT HAS NOT HELD ANY MAJOR POSITION SINCE THEN. HE HAS TRAVELLED TO THE US ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, ONCE ON A USG LEADER GRANT, AND IS QUITE FRIENDLY TO AMERICANS, ALTHOUGH HE SPEAKS VIRTUALLY NO ENGLISH. HE IS PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN-BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION AND HAS TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA. HAYAKAWA'S PRINCIPAL DIET SECRETARY, SHOHEI TACHIBANA, WHO WILL SERVE AS HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY, RECEIVED AN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANT IN 1973 AND IS PARTICULARLY WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE EMBASSY.
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